

REMARKS

Claims 11, 13 and 18 have been amended without prejudice.

Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice.

The Office objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings failed to show the channel breaking into the central bore substantially perpendicular as described in the specification. The Applicants respectfully traverse this objection. Figs. 7A & 7B clearly show the channel breaking into the central bore substantially perpendicular as described in paragraph [0051] of the specification. Figs. 7A & 7B show a transition region 54b between the restricted bore 50b and the enlarged bore 52b and that the channels 32, 34 break into the transition region 54b. As shown in Figs. 7A & 7B and described in paragraph [0051] the transition region 54b is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 11 of the downhole tool such that the channels 32, 34 break into the transition region 54b at a right angle. In view of Figs. 7A & 7B and the arguments above, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Office rejected claims 11, 12, 14, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dension, U.S. 4,126,848. Claim 11 has been amended such that the claim now reads "a primary and more internal secondary shoulder." Dension does not teach or show an internal secondary shoulder but rather shows in Fig. 3 of U.S. 4,126,848 a secondary shoulder that is more external to the primary shoulder. Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 11 is allowable over Dension, U.S. 4,126,848. Since claims 12, 14, and 17 depend from amended independent claim 11, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12, 14, and 17 are now also allowable over Dension, U.S. 4,126,848.

The Office rejected claims 11, 15, 16, 18-20, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Boyle et al., U.S. 6,641,434. Claim 11 has been amended to include "a more internal secondary shoulder" and "wherein the gun-drilled channel is drilled at a nominal positive angle with respect to the longitudinal axis." The Applicants respectfully submit that Boyle does not teach or show a gun-drilled channel from a more internal secondary shoulder to a point proximate the central bore, where the gun-drilled channel is drilled at a nominal positive angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the tool joint as described in amended claim 11. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 11 is allowable over Boyle et al. Since claims 15 and 16 depend from amended independent claim 11, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 16 are also now allowable.

Claim 18 has also been amended to include that the secondary shoulder is more internal and that the channel is drilled at a nominal positive angle with respect to the longitudinal axis. The Applicants respectfully submit that Boyle does not teach or show a gun-drilled channel from a more internal secondary shoulder to a to an exit point within the second portion, where the gun-drilled channel is drilled at a nominal positive angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the tool joint as described in amended claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended claim 18 is allowable over Boyle et al. Since claims 19, 20, 23, and 25 depend from amended independent claim 18, Applicants submit that claims 19, 20, 23, and 25 are now allowable over Boyle et al.

In view of the arguments and amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicants believe that there are no fees due at this time. However, as indicated in a response to a Notice of Missing Parts dated May 27, 2004, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any

additional fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at 801-310-8427.

Respectfully submitted,

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